

20 January 1954

Executive Registry

5-1451

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Additional Positions for FI/RI

1. Public Law 203, 83rd Congress, titled "Refugee Relief Act of 1953" authorizes the entrance into this country over a period of the next three years a total of 214,000 aliens. Section 11 of this act requires that "no alien shall be issued a visa under this Act or be admitted into the United States unless there shall have first been a thorough investigation and written report made and prepared by such investigative agency or agencies of the Government of the United States as the President shall designate"

2. Executive Order 10487 provides that the Department of State is the Agency to prepare the investigations and reports required under the Refugee Relief Act of 1953. Sections 2 and 3 read as follows:

Sec. 2. The Department of the Army and such other agencies of the Government as the Department of State may request shall, in accordance with arrangements agreed upon between the Department of State and any such agency, furnish the Department of State such assistance as it may need in carrying out its responsibilities under Section 1 of this order.

Sec. 3. The funds appropriated under the heading "Emergency Migration" appearing in Chapter VII of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1954 (Public Law 207, 83d Congress, approved August 7, 1953) are hereby transferred to the Department of State. The Secretary of State may allocate to agencies other than the Department of State such portions of the transferred funds as he shall determine.

3. The Department of State desires name checks by this Agency on each of the aliens to be admitted under the Refugee Relief Act. Based on experience the Records Integration Division of the FI Staff, which will be the unit required to perform these name checks, estimates that in excess of 500,000 names will have to be checked and over 16,000 memos written in order to perform this task. Based on a three-year spread of workload, an additional [redacted] positions will be required for the RI Division to perform this task. It is not possible for the RI Division to absorb this workload in addition to its present workload. RI already has a current backlog of 16,000 name checks for other U.S. agencies with no immediate prospect of reducing this backlog with its presently authorized working force. The addition of [redacted] positions to meet the requirements proposed by the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 would provide no assistance in handling the normal workload requirements of the RI Division.

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4. This problem can be approached in three ways:

a. We can inform State that we do not have the capabilities to handle this requirement. I do not recommend this and I understand that we are at least tentatively committed to the Department of State to handle these name checks.

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b. We can request the Director to authorize an additional [redacted] positions over and above the present total personnel ceiling authorized to DD/P. We cannot absorb these positions within our current personnel ceiling.

c. We can take the position that this is a special one-time specific project and that we are therefore warranted in setting up project overhead personnel to perform these functions. This would solve the personnel ceiling problem and would commit us to reducing the RI Division by these [redacted] project overhead positions by the expiration of the three-year period involved.

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*Concur
ut* || 5. I believe that the circumstances warrant establishing these positions on a project overhead basis as indicated in paragraph 4.c. above. However, I also believe that General Cabell, from previous conversations I have had with him, might consider this a subterfuge approach. I recommend, therefore, that if you agree this is a proper solution, we clear with General Cabell before putting it into effect.

6. RI has been advised by the State Department that the first group of approximately 15,000 names to be checked will be received from the Department of State by 31 January. Action on this request should, therefore, be processed as expeditiously as possible.

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[redacted]
Chief of Administration, DD/P